

[54] BILL OF MATERIAL INTERFACE TO CAD/CAM ENVIRONMENT

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364/403

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364/400, 401, 512

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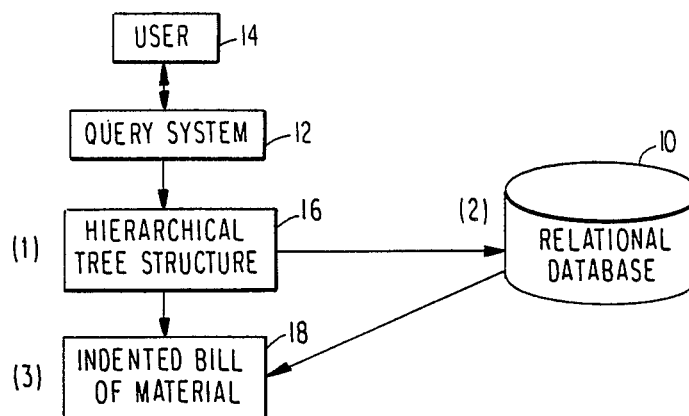
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[57] ABSTRACT

A method for interfacing between a product planning conceptual design tool and a CAD/CAM environment allows an indented bill of materials to be imported to the CAD/CAM environment while retaining the characteristics as a primitive text file. The conceptual design tool uses a sketch sheet approach on a computer display to enter the functional design of a new or modified product, thereby encouraging the designer to use a top down approach to the design process. The user keys in item information, and the system automatically draws a hierarchical tree structure on the computer display. The system then automatically generates an indented bill of materials which is stored in a graphics standard file that retains the character of text primitives. From this file an image of the bill of materials can be displayed in the CAD/CAM environment. The designer can use this image as an aid in the design process. Item names and numbers can be copied from the displayed bill of materials to the CAD/CAM image. The bill of materials can also be edited in the CAD/CAM environment and the edited bill of materials can then be reconstructed in the conceptual design tool for use in the continuing design and planning process.

5 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



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1 X X X X X X
2 X X X X X X
  6 X X X X X X
  7 X X X X X X
3 X X X X X X
4 X X X X X X
  8 X X X X X X
5 X X X X X X
  9 X X X X X X
 10 X X X X X X

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